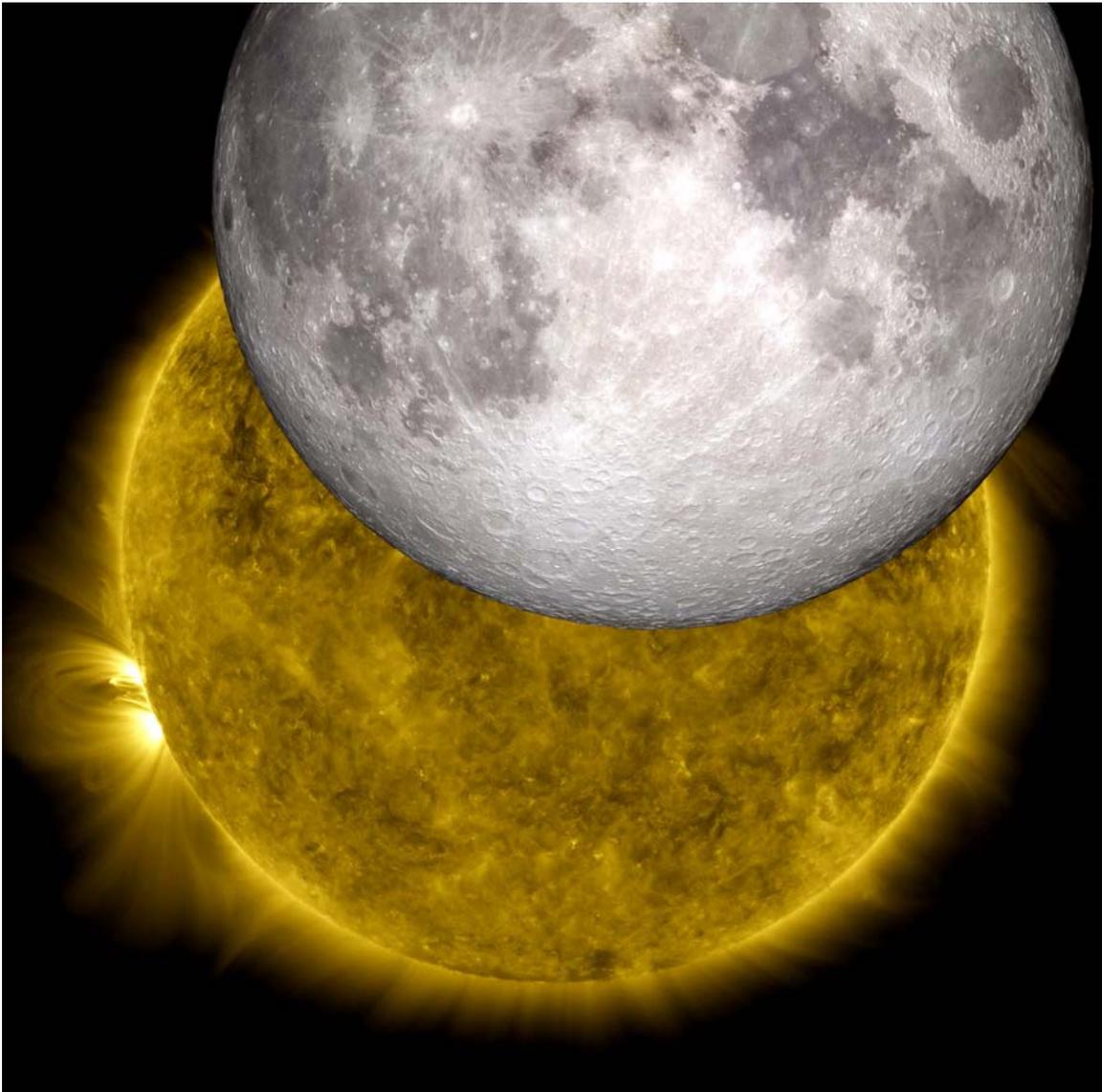


2002



NEXT MEETING
THURSDAY, 20th June 2013

THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF HARINGEY
VOLUME 41 : ISSUE 8 : June 2013
www.ashastro.co.uk

SOCIETY NEWS

MEETING VENUE

Sixth Form Centre, Ashmole School, Southgate, London N14 5RJ.

The day for meetings is usually the third Thursday of each month. The exceptions are August, when currently we do not hold a meeting, and December, when the Christmas Meet has always traditionally been held during the second week. However, in case of changes, it is always advisable to double-check the dates below.

IMPORTANT we have ANOTHER change of meeting room. Neither of the Sixth Form Centre rooms have turned out to be really suitable, so we have been give a room in the Main Music Block, which is the two storey building, next to the original Music Room, See the next page

For more on this, and general meeting information, also check the website:
www.ashastro.co.uk. Latest update May 2013

Doors open - 7.30pm : Main speaker - 8.00pm : Finish - 10.00pm sharp!
New or updated information is in *italics*

2013

June 20th : Members of the Society : “Sky Views”

July 18th

August : summer break

September 19th

October 17th : AGM

November 21st

December 12th : Christmas Do – *possibly...*

COVER



Spot the deliberate error! The cover picture was released by NASA on 13th June this year, though it was actually taken on 7th October, 2010. It shows the Moon passing in front of the Sun, ie a Solar Eclipse. This was taken by the Solar Dynamics Observatory - or rather this image on the left was. The one on the cover comes from two separate NASA space probes. The Sun is indeed photographed by the SDO, but the Moon is as composite image from NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, carefully matched so that the orientation matches exactly what appears in the actual image.

The cover image is of course impossible in that the Lunar Surface would not be illuminated.

Images : NASA/SDO/LRO/GSFC

SOCIETY NEWS

MEETING ROOM – YET MORE CHANGE



Due the new rooms were had been given in the Sixth Form Centre not being entirely suitable, we are moving again, this time to the Main Music Block.

This is the two-story building, next to our original room, the now-demolished Music Room (marked with the X) - see the main photo on left. Note, especially for those walking, the easiest route from the Main gate is as the arrow depicts, ie not

the route you'd likely think of taking through the car park! To put this into perspective, the previous building and view is shown smaller, left.

We will be meeting in one of the first floor rooms, details will be posted as you come in. We hope a first floor will be suitable for all – as there isn't a lift. If anyone feels they will have difficulty – please let the Chairman know – contact details on back page.

MEETING PREVIEW : 20th June

Jim Webb, Alistair Innes & Mat Irvine : "Sky Views"

After some upheavals during the last few months, not the least being the sad passing of our founder and President, Fred Clarke, the Society is taking a long, hard look at itself, and seeing if changes are needed to be made.

On thing that has become apparent is there appears to be a renewed interest amongst many members for more on practical observing.

Consequently for this meeting your Chairman, Membership Secretary and Vice-Chairman (aka Editor) will be looking at various aspects. Borrowing one of the regular column headings for this magazine, "Sky Views", we'll look at what to observe; using telescopes and other 'optical devices'; and a few aspects on astro-photography.



CHAIRMAN'S QUARTERS



Snow in May? I've been travelling a lot lately and the weather has been doing the weirdest things. April – cold in Frankfurt and raining in Warsaw. May – mostly cold in Greece but suddenly warmed and even got a day of swimming in, but no tan. Munich cold and rainy. Early-to-mid June I'm being told it is cool and rainy in northern Greece. So what is happening to the weather? The trend was supposedly towards warmer climate conditions, hence 'global warming'!

Back in the 1960's I remember reading an article about some deep Atlantic Ocean research that was being carried out. It consisted of drilling into the sea bed and pulling out core samples of the sand, sediment and rock. What intrigued the researchers was the distribution of pink and grey algae in the sea bed. Pink algae thrive in warm water conditions. Grey algae thrive in colder waters. The core samples showed regular 'razor sharp' divisions between the times of pink algae growth and those of the grey algae. This implies a very sudden change in water temperature and the measurements suggested a transition period of around 50 years. The other fact that noted was that these transitions between pink and grey algae happened regularly every 10,000 years (give or take). The topmost transition, ie the most recent, corresponded to the ice age 10,000 years ago with the current sample showing pink algae as the topmost layer.

Given this rather singular piece of information, what are its possible implications? As there is a mounting body of evidence showing that large areas of the North Pole regions are melting, there is a credible link to the fact that surface water temperatures have been increasing over the past half century. More than that, though, is the fact that the cold water from the melted ice is sinking to the bottom of the sea bed and forcing the warmer (upper) waters deeper into the ice caps. This, in turn, will melt more ice sending more cold water towards the oceans' floor thus pushing more warm water to the poles. This cascading effect is referred to as positive feedback which is a runaway situation that can precipitate a very sudden change from one stable state to another.

So back to 'global warming'. Catalysis is the process whereby a small amount of either a chemical substance or a set of conditions can accelerate the rate of change in an existing situation. The warming of the atmosphere by our usage of fossil fuels may very well be a catalytic process. Nature has responded in a remarkable way to the increase in CO₂ (carbon dioxide) levels with the increase in green plankton over the oceans. But the temperature increase is another matter. This could be the trigger to a rapid change in the oceans' temperature. Given the aforementioned core findings, the net result of the state change in the oceans would hint at a rapid drop in overall sea temperature which suggests that we are very likely on the precipice of a new Ice Age where, instead of worrying about how hot things are going to get, we may have to deal with how cold they could get. Worse than that is that heat doesn't take much energy to deal with, but cold most certainly does! Given the current 'energy crisis', this does not bode well for a potential upcoming 10,000 year Ice Age. Maybe it is time to move to the tropics or even the Sahara Desert. But more about that in a future CQ...

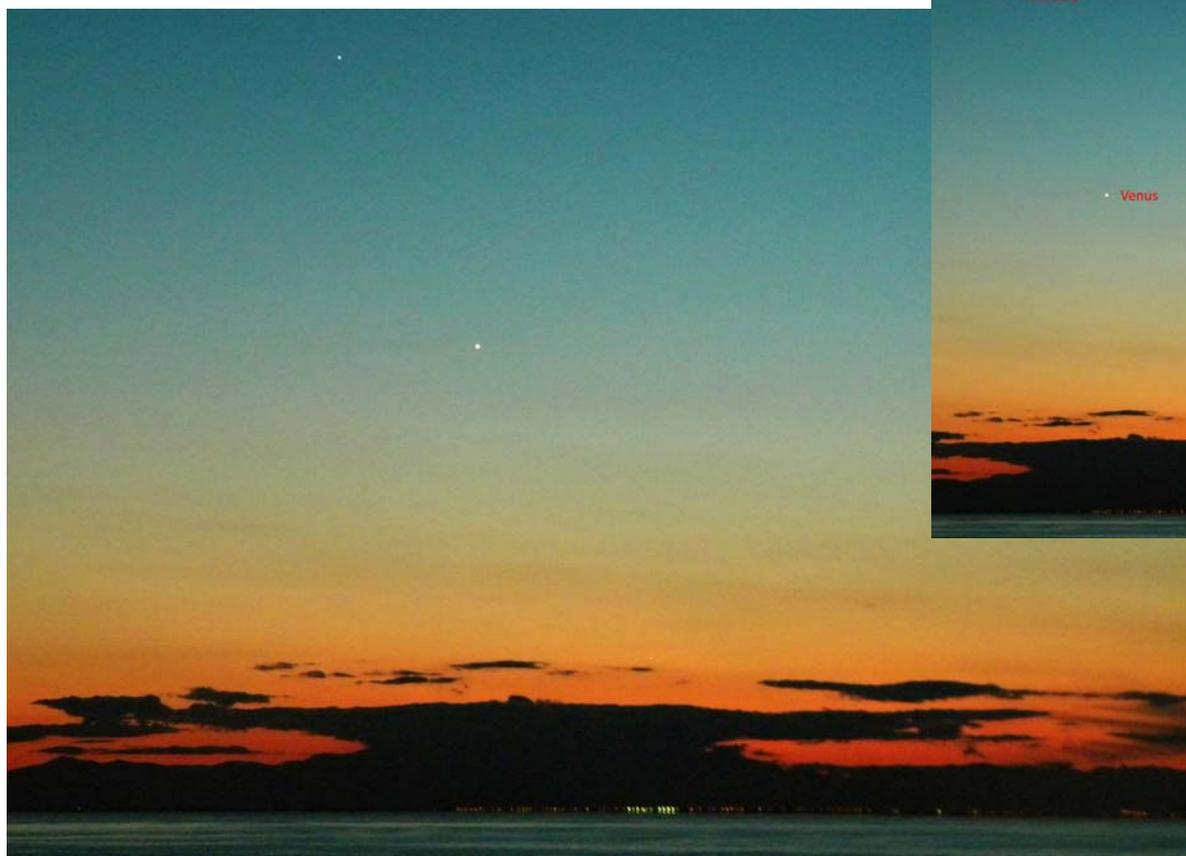
See at the next meeting.

Jim

Sky Views

Two views of the recent triple planetary conjunction

Top, 26th May, by your Editor from the UK. Below, 2nd June, by your Chairman on in Peraia, near Thessaloniki, Greece. This view is looking due west over the Thermaic Gulf. Mount Olympus is several pictures width off to the left of this view.



THE NIGHT SKY : PLANETS

June - July 2013

PLANETARY CONJUNCTION : The Mercury, Venus and Jupiter conjunction at the end of May and beginning of June was mostly obscured by clouds - but both your Chairman and Editor, got views on two different nights – and from two entirely different locations. See [Sky Views](#) page.

MERCURY : Still in the evening skies around -0.4 at the beginning of the month magnitude. Conjunction with Venus 2 degrees (4 Moon widths) south on 20th June, but will have faded to +1.2. At inferior conjunction on 9th July.

VENUS : Still bright at magnitude -3.8 in the north-west after Sunset, but still low down, so needing a clear horizon. The highest it will be is 10 degrees (20 Moon widths) 20th – 25th June. Mercury close by on 20th. Also see MERCURY. Moon close 10th July

EARTH : Summer Solstice 21st June

MARS : Now in the morning skies at around magnitude 0.4

JUPITER : Reaches superior conjunction with the Sun, ie on the far side, on 19th June, so not visible. Re-emerges in the morning sky at the end of July.

SATURN : Well placed for viewing this month, as it was at opposition on 28th April, so visible all night. The rings are open at the moment, around 19 degrees, making a worthwhile visit from even the smallest telescope. The Moon is four degrees to the south on 19th June and 3° south on 17th July.

URANUS : Moon to the north on 30th June. Stationary on 18th July.

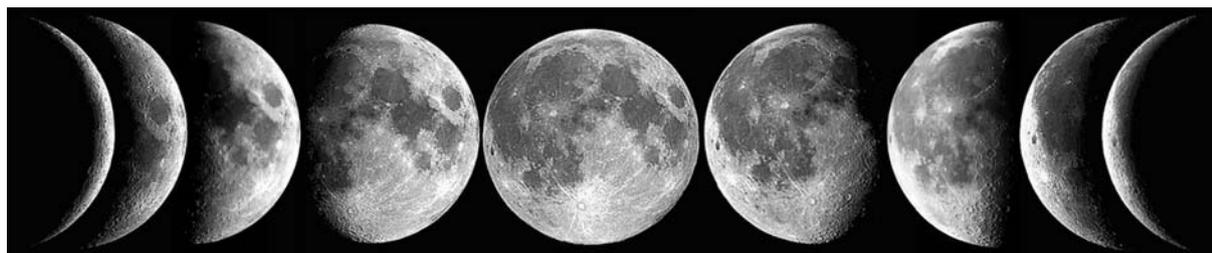
NEPTUNE : Moon to the north on 27th June.

COMETS

There is still a slight chance to spot PanSTARRS which is near the tail of Ursa Minor. But the magnitude is now less than +8 so optical devices will be definitely be needed.

THE MOON

The 23rd has the Full Moon at perigee (closest to the Earth), and the closest this year, so the Moon will appear at its largest. It is also a time of the 'Moon Illusion' where the Moon appears far larger on the horizon, than it does higher in the sky. It *is* an illusion – many experiments have been done to prove this. Your Editor's opinion is that this is because near the horizon there are terrestrial objects to which it can be compared, which don't exist in the same field of view with the Moon much higher. Though The Sky at Night presenter Chris Lintott, in his monthly Night Sky column in The Times, says he read a recent paper that indicted the 'illusion' can be counteracted by standing on your head! (He invites Times readers – and presumably any others – who try this out, to get in touch!)



New 8th June

First Quarter 16th

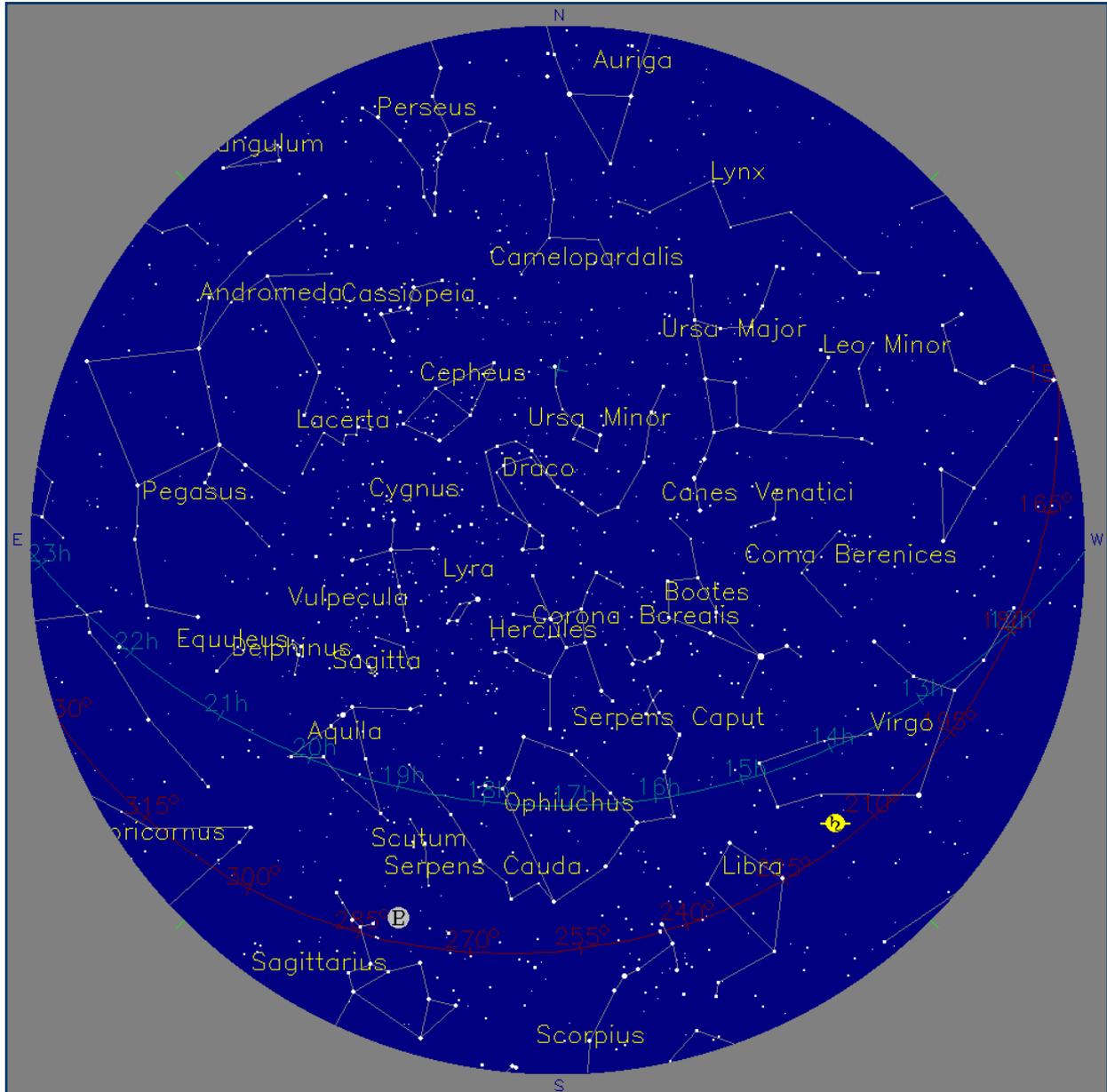
Full 23rd

Last Quarter 25th

New 8th July

THE NIGHT SKY : MAP

1st July 2013 22.00 BST [21:00 GMT/ UTC]



KEY



MERCURY



VENUS



MARS



JUPITER



SATURN



URANUS



NEPTUNE



PLUTO



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Patron: **Sir Arthur C. Clarke, C.B.E., B.Sc., F.R.A.S., F.B.I.S.**

President : **Frederick W. Clarke, F.Ph.S.(Eng), F.B.I.S.**

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